MA Sample Timeline

First Year

Fall
Read degree requirements (general and program-specific) on English Web site and Graduate School Web site
Read the Graduate Student Survival Handbook on the Graduate School Web site
Meet with Director of Graduate Studies in English in the early weeks of the semester
Meet twice with appointed faculty mentor
Plan approach to fulfill the requirements for your degree (including language requirements)
Submit Transfer Credit Evaluation form (if applicable) to Director of Graduate Studies
Meet and talk with faculty members who share your interests

Spring
If you do not have a TA but wish to, apply (or reapply) for the TA by the deadline
Choose a committee chair, and in consultation with chair form rest of your committee
Check progress toward degree requirements, including foreign language requirement
In consultation with committee chair, consider the thesis vs. non-thesis option (if you choose thesis, begin to consider topics)
Complete Program of Study and submit it to Director of Graduate Studies
Begin focusing plans for the MA comprehensive exam/final project(s)/thesis

Summer
Continue preparation for exam/final project(s)/thesis
Consider doing a summer internship, field institute, or volunteer work
Consider and begin to research longer-term goals (more graduate school vs. careers, etc.)
Continue taking language classes if requirement not yet met

Second Year

Fall
Meet with chair early to discuss progress through degree
Prepare for the MA comprehensive exam and/or work on final project(s)/thesis
Apply to graduate schools with early deadlines (if applicable)

Spring
Finish course work
Apply to graduate schools and/or jobs
Complete comprehensive exam/final project(s)/thesis
Submit application for graduation early
File notice of completion (and thesis) by Graduate School deadline

Note: A TAship in the MA program may be held for a maximum of two years. The MA degree must be completed within six years from the time you first earn graduate credits that you apply toward the degree. This timeline represents a very general model for your progress toward the
degree. The key is to be aware of what you’re doing, keep medium- and long-range goals in mind, and consult frequently with your mentor/chair.